



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Cain  
Serial No: 09/457,209  
Filed: December 8, 1999  
For: System Device and Method for Sending Keep-Alive Messages in a Communications Network  
Art Unit: 2155  
Examiner: Zia, Syed

#9/B  
(N/A)  
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3-19-03  
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LDD  
4-22-03

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Technology Center 2100

BOX AF  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the below amendments and response to the Final Office Action for the above referenced case, dated January 13, 2003. A complete set of claims, with markings showing current amendments as suggested in the Official Gazette of February 24, 2003 is attached hereto.

Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested pursuant 37 C.F.R. §1.116(a).

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03/20/2003 JOHNSON 00000001 502569 09457209

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Armstrong et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,047).

As mentioned in the previous response, Armstrong describes a distributed network monitoring system for monitoring node and link status. The exemplary distributed monitoring system distributes the monitor function of determining the status of the nodes